

REMARKS

Claim 29 has been amended. Claims 1 – 27 and 29 - 30 are currently pending in this Application. The Applicant respectfully acknowledges the allowance of claims 5 – 27 and 30. Reconsideration and further examination of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Identifiers

The Applicants' previous amendment contained typographical errors with regard to the identifiers associated with claims 5, 29, and 30. The claim identifiers have been corrected to appropriately identify the status of the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite because a method, system and apparatus were claimed simultaneously. The claim has been amended to claim methods only. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donovan (US patent no. 6,366,577) in view of Kalmanek (US patent no. 6,324,279). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants' independent claim 1 sets forth:

“A method comprising: sending a first message from a first party to a second party via a first policy enforcement device, said first message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said first party to said second party, said first policy enforcement device connecting to a network; sending a second message from said second party to said first party via a second policy enforcement device, said second message acknowledging the first message, said second message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said second party to said first party, said second policy enforcement device connecting to a network; and sending a third message from said first party to said second party, said third message acknowledging said second message.”

The Applicants thus provide end-to-end two-way resource reservation through a single three-way handshake. The second message not only acknowledges the first message, but also carries a resource reservation request for communication from the second party to the first party.

As established in the previous amendment, Donovan sets forth the prior art method of resource reservation using RSVP, as described in the Applicants’ background. Resource reservation is first established in one direction via a 3-way handshake. It is then established in the opposite direction via a 3-way handshake. (See Donovan Col. 8 lines 6 – 23.) Donovan thus fails to teach or suggest the Applicants’ claimed method including the step of sending a second message from said second party to said first party via a second policy enforcement device, said second message acknowledging the first message, said second message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said second party to said first party.

The Office Action asserts that Kalmanek discloses “exchanging communication signaling messages (plurality of messages/first, second, third) end-to-end in a communication architecture that includes communication between telephony units via edge routers, wherein in the setup process resource reservation messages and setup acknowledgement messages are exchanged

between devices". This does not, however, correct the inadequacies of Donovan. In Kalmanek, like Donovan, resource reservation requests and acknowledgements occur in separate messages, during separate handshakes. Thus, neither Donovan, Kalmanek, nor any combination of the two teaches or suggests the Applicants' claimed method including the step of sending a second message from said second party to said first party via a second policy enforcement device, said second message acknowledging the first message, said second message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said second party to said first party.

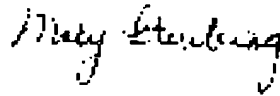
The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. However, claim 3 is believed allowable for the reasons set forth with regard to claim 1.

The Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date

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